

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Further Information, Contact:***

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***Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri Walker Hobson at (619) 557-5027***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - March 22, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that seventeen (17) defendants were arraigned on federal drug-trafficking complaints, following the execution of several federal search warrants in San Diego County on March 19, 2004, by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the San Diego Narcotics Task Force.

Defendants were arraigned this afternoon on the federal drug-trafficking charges before the Honorable Louisa S. Porter, United States Magistrate Judge, for the Southern District of California. The Court set the preliminary examination for April 6, 2004, at 2:00 p.m.

In the first complaint, defendants Bradley DeGraff, Carlos Barradas, Trevor Worden, Malerie McNeill, Jason Hanson, Brian Villarante, Derek Colon, and Edward Beighton, were charged with conspiracy to manufacture over 1,000 marijuana plants, a Scheduled I Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

Defendants Adam Muscat, Jeffrey Scott Harms, Michael David Marrs, Curtis Paul David, and Tanja

Michelle Handy were also charged with conspiracy to manufacture over 1,000 marijuana plants, a Scheduled I Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

The third complaint charges defendants Curtis Lee Burris, Mark Andrew Saine, and Jeffrey Nelson Sanders, with conspiracy to manufacture over 100 marijuana plants, a Scheduled I Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

David Schulken was charged in a separate complaint with manufacturing marijuana plants in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841.

According to court documents, the six-month investigation targeted several indoor grow operators in San Diego County, including Bradley DeGraff, Adam Muscat, David Schulken and others, who were managing and operating several indoor grow locations. The managers used rental residences located throughout San Diego County to cultivate high-grade marijuana for commercial gain and profit. According to court documents, the managers of the grow operations, all residents of San Diego County, used sophisticated venting and lighting systems, and irrigation systems placed on timers to facilitate their operation. Agents seized over \$100,000 cash in connection with this investigation and found six firearms at different locations, including three shotguns, two pistols and one rifle. According to court documents, the defendants cultivated and sold pound quantities of this high-grade marijuana for between \$4,000 to \$5,500 per pound.

United States Attorney Lam praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for the coordinated team effort in the culmination of this investigation. Several local, state and federal law enforcement agencies assisted DEA in this OCDETF investigation. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country's battle against major drug trafficking.

The investigation was directed by Special Agents and Task Force Officers assigned to the DEA Narcotics Task Force at the DEA San Diego Field Division.

## **DEFENDANTS**

**DAVID SCHULKEN**

**ADAM MUSCAT**

**JEFFREY SCOTT HARMS**

**MICHAEL DAVID MARRS**

**CURTIS PAUL DAVID**

**TANJA MICHELLE HANDY**

**CURTIS LEE BURRIS**

**MARK ANDREW SAINÉ**

**JEFFREY NELSON SANDERS**

**BRADLEY DEGRAFF**

**CARLOS BARRADAS**

**TREVOR WORDEN**

**MALERIE MCNEILL**

**JASON HANSON**

**BRIAN VILLARANTE**

**DEREK COLON**

**EDWARD BEIGHTON**

**DAVID SCHULKEN**

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Conspiracy to Manufacture Marijuana (1,000 marijuana plants or more) in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

Penalties: 10 year minimum mandatory to life in custody for 1,000 marijuana plants or more; at least 4 years of supervised release.

Conspiracy to Manufacture Marijuana (100 marijuana plants or more) in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

Penalties: 5 year minimum mandatory to 40 years in custody for 100 marijuana plants or more; at least 4 years of supervised release.

Manufacturing of Marijuana (100 plants or more) and Aiding and Abetting in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Penalties: 5 year minimum mandatory to 40 years in custody for 100 marijuana plants or more; at least 4 years of supervised release.

### **PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Drug Enforcement Administration

San Diego Narcotics Task Force

United States Marshals Service

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**